

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Downtown Fulton Historic District (preferred)

other name/site number N/A

2. Location

street & town Roughly bounded by 4th St., Market, 7th St., and Jefferson Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Fulton N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Callaway code 027 zip code 65251

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. ( ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark A. Miles  
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO

05/25/04  
Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

☐ removed from the National  
Register.

☐ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_



Downtown Fulton Historic District  
Name of Property

Callaway County, MO  
County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property

(check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
57	12	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
58	12	Total

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store  
Commerce/Trade: Department Store  
Commerce/Trade: professional  
Government: Courthouse  
Recreation and Culture: Theater  
Social: Meeting Hall

### Current Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store  
Commerce/Trade: Department Store  
Commerce/Trade: professional  
Government: Courthouse  
Recreation and Culture: Theater

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Italianate  
Second Empire  
Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals  
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements  
Other: two-part commercial block

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
walls brick  
roof asphalt  
other Metal: cast iron

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7



Downtown Fulton Historic District (preferred)  
Name of Property

Callaway County, MO  
County and State

## 8. Description

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Commerce

Architecture

### Period of Significance

1877-1954

### Significant Dates

N/A

### Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Bell, M. Fred

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9



Downtown Fulton Historic District (preferred)  
Name of Property

Callaway County, MO  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 11.5 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/5 5/9/1/3/2/0 4/3/0/0/1/7/0  
Zone Easting Northing

2 1/5 5/9/1/3/8/0 4/3/0/0/4/0/0  
Zone Easting Northing

3 1/5 5/9/1/0/8/0 4/3/0/0/3/8/0  
Zone Easting Northing

4 1/5 5/9/1/1/2/0 4/3/0/0/1/6/0  
Zone Easting Northing

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Property Tax No.

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title see attached

organization

date

street & number

telephone

city or town

state

zip code

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs:** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

name/title multiple

street & number

telephone

city or town

state

zip code

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Downtown Fulton Historic District  
Callaway County, MO**

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### Summary

The Downtown Fulton Historic District is located in the community of Fulton, Callaway County, Missouri. Consisting of 69 buildings and 1 structure, the district is roughly bordered by 4th Street on the south, 7th on the north, Market Street (Business Highway 54) on the east and Jefferson Avenue on the west. Fulton is the county seat and the district includes the Callaway County courthouse as well as the largest intact portion of Fulton's historic commercial center. The district also includes several buildings designed and built by M. Fred Bell, a prominent local architect and builder. The buildings are one to three story brick commercial blocks with flat roofs constructed between 1880 and 1938. Most are a half city block in depth and share walls with neighboring buildings. The buildings were historically mixed use and contained commercial, office, residential and meeting spaces. The majority of the resources are vernacular commercial designs with some high style Victorian and Italianate detail. Though storefront and other façade updates have occurred throughout the district, the overall level of integrity is high. Of the 69 buildings, 57 are counted as contributing and 12 as non-contributing. The historic brick street paving that has been retained along Court, Nichols, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> streets is also counted as a contributing structure to the district.

### Elaboration

Fulton, the seat of Callaway County government, was founded in 1825 but not incorporated until March 14, 1859. Beginning in the mid-1820s entrepreneurs established businesses and the community grew. Fulton soon became a center of governmental and commercial activity as well as a regional trade center. Early in the development of downtown frame buildings with gable roofs appeared around the courthouse. On April 14, 1876 fire destroyed the block of Court Street buildings between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> streets. Only the John Bartley Building, of brick construction, survived the flames. The destroyed block was rebuilt using more fire resistant materials. Most of the new buildings were flat roofed brick commercial blocks with stone foundations and cast iron storefronts. These brick two-part commercial blocks became the standard design for downtown Fulton and are typically what is seen today in the historic commercial center. Many of the buildings have had updates, notably to the storefront, but remain remarkably intact on the upper story facades.

The historic character of the buildings is further enhanced by the retention of some of the historic brick streets in the district. Brick streets were laid between 1910 and 1912, replacing the muddy clay streets and wooded sidewalks that originally carried the customers to businesses in the district. The brick paving is still extant on Court, Nichols and on 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> streets within the district boundaries. The combination of the brick streets and buildings constructed between 1870 and 1938 insure that the historic commercial center of Fulton retains its historic feeling and sense of place. Commercial activity has been a constant in the historic district. Though blacksmith shops have been replaced by computer software offices, the district



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**Downtown Fulton Historic District**  
**Callaway County, MO**

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has remained the commercial hub of the community.

### Setting:

The central business district of Fulton is larger than the boundaries of the nominated district. At one time, there were additional blocks of commercial development on two sides of the current proposed historic districts. Today, some of the surrounding blocks still serve a commercial function, but their historic character has been altered through new construction and the modification of historic buildings.

Directly to the east of the district on Market Street (Business 54) between 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> streets, some historic buildings remain. Buildings such as the "old Telephone Building," which served Fulton as the telephone exchange for much of the 1900's, and the newspaper office built in 1912 may be individually eligible for listing. Other buildings on the block include a one-story brick auto repair shop, the Fulton Police department and the c. 1870 Palace Hotel. The block between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Street contains only two of the series of two story brick buildings that once covered the entire block. Fire destroyed the majority of this block in the mid 1900's. Currently, this block is all commercial. Though these blocks contain some historic buildings, the level of integrity was not sufficient to be included in the district boundaries.

Modern construction has changed the character of the blocks just south of the district boundary. A new City Hall, post office and several commercial buildings have been constructed over a three-block area. Both the City Hall and post office were constructed within the last 15 years. One older residence, converted into commercial space, remains.

Though many older buildings remain west of the district boundary, the pattern of use changes. Most of the buildings in this area are residential though secondary commercial, religious and lodge buildings are mixed in. To the North are residences, the Callaway Public Library and three large churches.

The nominated boundaries contain the largest concentration of historic commercial buildings in Fulton. The contributing resources in the district share common characteristics such as size, setback and massing. Brick is the predominant building material. The area outside the *nominated boundary is largely residential, though some historic commercial buildings remain.* The physical integrity and significant alterations to the historic character of buildings in surrounding commercial blocks are the reasons for their exclusion from the district. The architecture of the buildings within the district reflect popular trends technology and style during the period of significance. Though most are vernacular brick buildings, the district includes several good examples of Victorian Eclecticism. The district maintains it's Victorian charm with period lighting and brick streets.



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**Downtown Fulton Historic District  
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The buildings in the district that replaced early original wood structures were well constructed to withstand years of service. Although the interiors have been updated over the years, many retain the original tin ceilings and wood floors. Each building is unique but all fit together to present a district that represents Fulton in the early 20th century.

### Individual Property Descriptions

Properties within the Downtown Fulton Historic District are designated as [C] for contributing or [NC] for non-contributing. *Historic or early building/business names are shown in parentheses.* Some of the descriptions also include brief histories of the buildings and or their historic businesses.

Unless otherwise noted, the historic information provided on individual buildings comes from the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of February 1884, February 1890, November 1895, May 1902, February 1910 and September 1917. Basic information on the buildings was taken from the Architectural and Historical Inventory Forms completed during the survey of Fulton conducted by Phyllis Strawn in 1978-79. Detailed business history and quotations are from the Fulton, Missouri Past and Present Progress and Prosperity Souvenir.

The first seven buildings are in the 400 block of Court Street. All were built within a twenty year period in the late 1800s. This block was destroyed by fire on April 14, 1876. These buildings were originally wood, but were rebuilt in the late 19th century in brick. All have been used as commercial buildings throughout their history.

1. 401 Court Street (Fred Cohn Clothing Store), c. 1884. A two story brick building with Gothic Revival influenced architectural details and a stone foundation. The façade or east elevation has a stepped parapet with pointed arch windows on the second floor. The first floor has remnants of an early cast iron storefront, but has been infilled with brick and modern fenestration. [C]

According to Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, in 1884 the building housed a harness shop on the first floor and lodge on the 2nd floor. In 1890, the 1st floor was a saloon and later became a restaurant (1910) and a grocery store (1917).

2. 403 Court Street (Louis Ruhl Dry Goods), c. 1884. A two-story brick building with corbeled brickwork at the roofline and segmental arched windows on the second floor. The storefront has been infilled with wood siding and modern fenestration. The cast iron pilasters and columns, however, have been retained. The metal pilasters are square with classical details, while the two columns on either side of the entrance are slender round columns with decorative capitals. While the second floor windows and storefront have been infilled with modern materials, the brick second floor and cast iron columns clearly show the buildings



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**Downtown Fulton Historic District  
Callaway County, MO**

historic character. [C]

The buildings located a 5 & 7 West 4th Street are connected to this building. In the early 20th century, the businesses in the building had segregated entrances for white and black citizens. The 4th Street entrance was for African Americans. In 1884-1890 the building housed a furniture store and barbershop. In 1902 the businesses were listed as a clothing store and barbershop and later a pool hall (1910).

3. 405 Court Street (Willing & Dorsey General Store), c. 1884. The two-story brick building has round arched windows that have been infilled with wood and smaller aluminum clad windows. The lower façade has also been infilled with wood and brick, though the early cast iron columns remain. The second floor has façade originally matched the design of 403 Court Street, the façade has since been covered by a new layer of modern brick. [NC]

In 1884 the building housed a tailor's shop, in 1895 a boot and shoe store, and in 1902-1917 a restaurant.

4. 407 Court Street (Edwin Curd Dry Goods), c. 1890. This two-story brick building was constructed c. 1876. It has segmental arched windows, and a denticulate brick cornice treatment. The building has been painted. The windows on the second floor have been infilled with wood and smaller aluminum clad windows, though the original window openings are intact. The storefront is modern, though the traditional storefront configuration of large plate glass windows, and recessed entrance has been retained. [C]

Mr. T. Ed Carter established his grocery store in this building in 1894. He "stocked his store with a conservatively selected line of staples & fancy groceries, coffees, teas, canned goods, spices, flour, sugar, Queens ware, smoked & dried meats, vegetables, fruits and produce in season." Mr. Carter employed six salesmen. Mr. Carter was born in Fulton in 1868. He was a member of the IOOF and was elected to the city council and school board.

5. 409 Court Street (Berghauser Hardware), c. 1890. The two-story brick building has been sandblasted, but retains much of its historic character. The brick façade has a stepped parapet with a simple pattern in brick. The original 2/2 wood windows are still in their tall, narrow segmental arched windows openings. There is a brick pilaster on the second story over a cast iron pilaster on the first story. The remnants of the cast iron storefront have decorative rosettes and were cast by the City Foundry in Quincy, Illinois. The building was at one time joined to its neighbor at 411 Court Street. The interior of the building currently has exposed brick on the north wall. A sealed doorway is visible and is in the location where the stairway once joined the two buildings. [C]

Berghauser Hardware was established in 1868 as W.E. Berghauser & Co. It was



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incorporated in 1901 when Louis Berghauser became a partner. The hardware store covered 2 floors and had an additional 50 X 75' warehouse behind it. Five assistants were employed in 1912. The Berghauser's carried a complete line of shelf and builder's hardware, cutlery, tools, buggies, paints, tinware and roofing material.

William E. Berghauser was born in Prussia on July 11, 1840 and moved with his parents to Fulton in 1851. He attended public school and business school in St. Louis. He began clerking at the age of 15 or 16 and held a clerks job until 1867 or 1868 when he started his own business. He was also secretary of the Fulton Woolen Mills Stock Co. and a member of the School Board for six years beginning in 1876. He and his wife Hellene Sartor, also a German immigrant, had six children. One of their sons, Louis (b. 1873), later became a partner with his father. William E. also served several terms as City Councilman, was a member of the German Reformed Church and the IOOF.

6. 411 Court Street (SA Nichols Drug Store), c. 1880. This two story brick building was joined with 409 Court and a stairway was located between the two buildings at the rear. The location of the stairway was changed c. 1890 to the front of the building. Though slightly taller, it is nearly identical in design to its neighbor at 409 Court. [C]

In 1884 the building contained a country store and in 1895 housed a boot and shoe store with sleeping rooms on the 2nd floor. In 1897, Mr. S.A. Nichols established his drugstore in the building. By 1917, Berghauser Hardware had expanded into the building.

S.A. Nichols was born in Callaway County in 1850. He was educated in public schools and Westminster College. He later studied pharmacy in Lexington, KY. He was a member of the masons. His store was described as "one of the best appointed Drug stores in the City, handling a fine line of drugs, chemicals, toilet articles, paints, oils, brushes, cigars and tobacco, with specialty of filling physicians prescriptions."

7. 413-415 Court Street (Southern Bank of Fulton), c. 1905. This Neoclassical revival, two-story brick building has a tripartite façade. Slightly taller bays with rounded and circular windows flank the center section over the entrances. The center bay has rectangular 1/1 windows with limestone sills and lintels. A metal cornice spans the upper façade. [C]

The Southern Bank of Fulton was established in 1871, and built this building sometime between 1902 and 1910. The bank was "a model of its kind, equipped with all the latest facilities for conducting a metropolitan banking business, with burglar and fire proof vault and safes affording the utmost safety to its patrons deposits." The vault and a large safe remain in the building.

In 1912 the bank had a capital stock of \$50,000, with surplus and undivided profits of



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\$30,000 and deposits amounting to \$275,000. The officers of the bank were: J.S. Henderson, president; J.E. Maughs, cashier; W.F. Russell and W.F. Henderson, Asst. Cashiers; the directors were J.S. Henderson, J.E. Maughs, Irwin Maddox, J.W. Tucker, J. Sam Watson, T. A. Boulware and W.H. Dawson. The bank was prosperous until the Depression.

8. 501 Court Street (Masonic Lodge). Built in 1872, this three-story brick building is topped with a decorative brick cornice with a centered, round arch parapet. Brick pilasters divide the upper stories into three bays. The 2nd and 3rd floor windows have been altered or infilled, but the rounded arched window openings with decorative hoods remain. The hoods have decorative brackets that resemble Corinthian capitals. The date stone located just below the arched parapet reads "Masonic Hall, Fulton Lodge, Orion, No. 48 A.E. [or A.F.] & A.M. Charter No. 49, 1872, Wright & Bell, Architects." The brick on this corner building has been sandblasted and repointed. Windows on the south elevation have been infilled with brick and smaller, modern, windows. The storefront has been modified, but retains a traditional storefront configuration. Remodeling work was done in 1977 and again in 1989. [C]

The 2nd floor was used as offices and the 3rd floor as a Masonic lodge (at least until 1895). M. Fred Bell included the Masonic Hall as one of the buildings he had designed in Pleasant Homes and HOW TO MAKE THEM! R. A. Moore's drugstore, established in 1897, was on the first floor. Drugs, toilet articles, paints, oil brushes, Kodaks & cigars were sold in his store. In 1912 he employed 4 clerks. Window dressing was considered a specialty of the store.

9. 503 Court Street (Home Savings Bank), c. 1884. This two-story brick building has white glazed tile and a dentiled brick cornice line. The second story fenestration has been infilled with smaller windows, but the original openings with heavy stone lintels and sills remain. The façade has a recessed sign panel under the cornice with "Bank" in black letters. Between the sign panel and second story windows are three recessed areas in the brick. The building has a one story rear addition constructed in stone. The storefront is new, but retains a traditional storefront configuration. [C]

In 1884 and 1890, a building on this site was used as a drugstore and dentist's office. The 1895 Sanborn map lists this site as a bank with offices on the second floor.

The Home Savings Bank was established in 1890 and in 1912 was described as being "housed in modern banking quarters at 503 Court Street." The description continues as follows: "The banking rooms are well furnished and are equipped with the latest and most modern appliances, vaults, safes and apparatus for the protections of funds." Officers of the bank were: John T. Brown, president; S. K. Black, vice-president; James A. Leavell,



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### Downtown Fulton Historic District Callaway County, MO

cashier; Augustus Hockaday and J.P. Sharp, Assistant cashiers. The bank directors were: John M. Pratt, Thomas F. Murry, I.W. Holman, Augustus Hockaday, James A. Leavell, S.K. Black and John T. Brown.

The second floor housed the law office of J. R. Baker. This office was equipped with an "extensive library." The office was opened on January 1, 1913. J. R. Baker was born in Callaway County on December 9, 1879. He attended public school and Westminster College in Fulton. For six years he worked as a civil engineer on railroad construction in Equador, South America. He studied law in the evenings and in 1907 passed the state bar examination. In 1910 he was elected prosecuting attorney in Callaway County. He was also a member of the Masons and the Elks.

10. 505 Court St., c. 1880. This two-story brick building has a flat façade with decorative brickwork. The pattern has sections of stretcher patterns creating the look of a frame and pilasters in the brick. Panels of header bricks denote each of the three bays. The storefront is new, but retains a traditional storefront configuration. The interior of the first floor is connected to the building at 507 Court. [C]

There has been a drugstore on this site since 1895. In 1890 a photography business was located here and in 1884 a photographer and millinery shop.

11. 507 Court Street, c. 1880. This two-story Italianate building has segmental arched windows and bracketed cast iron window hoods and sills. The brackets have an acanthus leaf design and decorative scrolls and shell-like motif embellish the tops of the hoods. The Façade is divided into three parts by brick pilasters. The storefront, though modern, retains its original cast iron columns. These columns were cast at the Union Iron Foundry Co., in St. Louis. [C]

A hardware store was housed in the building in 1903. A local publication noted "The hardware store established by J.W. Cook in 1903 is located at 507 Court Street, and has expanded until it covers two floors 25 X 110 feet. Two skilled and experienced clerks are required to wait upon the vast crowd of appreciative customers. The store occupied is well adapted for a business of this character, as every facility is installed that could in any way assist in properly conducting the business. The stock comprises a large and comprehensive stock of shelf and builders hardware, stoves, sporting goods such as guns, fishing tackle and appurtenances, cutlery of all kinds, granite, nickel, tinware and bathroom fixtures. Mr. J.W. Cook was born at Williamsburg, Callaway County, MO in 1863, was educated in the rural schools and engaged in farming and stock raising. He is a man of pleasing personality and a business man of sterling worth."

12. 509 Court Street (Neukomm Clothing). This two-story painted brick building has three



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### Downtown Fulton Historic District Callaway County, MO

round windows with laurel wreath surrounds and textured clear glass. Brick pilasters at the corners are topped by elaborately detailed pressed tin brackets. A dentiled cornice stretches along the top of the building. [C]

The 1895 Sanborn Maps indicate that 509-511 Court was the site of the Grand Opera House and, in 1884, the City Hall was located on the same site. The building's design is attributed to M. F. Bell.

J.J. Neukomm established his business in this building in 1908. Mr. Neukomm advertised that his store carried a large and complete line of ready-to-wear clothing, hats, caps and neckwear. In 1912 the business had 10 employees. Mr. Neukomm was born in Fulton in 1861. After he finished his education, he began to work as a tailor and went into the clothing business in 1886. Morris Bell Neukomm took over the business later and continued it until around 1960.

13. 511 Court Street (Montgomery-Bell Dry Goods), c. 1902. This two-story beige brick building has a pressed-tin cornice with three rows of varying dentils, large metal brackets articulate the corners of the building and match those used on the building at 509 Court. Two recessed crosses configured in brick flank a grouping of four flat-arched windows. The windows have a continuous stone lintel and sill. Narrow cast iron pilasters separate the windows. The original tin ceiling is extant on the first floor. The storefront, below the original transom, is new but retains a traditional storefront configuration. [C]

A photograph of this block from 1899 shows a different building at this location. The City Hall was located at this site in 1884, and later became the site of the Grand Opera House (as indicated on the 1895 and 1902 Sanborn maps). The Montgomery-Bell Dry goods Company was located here in 1902. Dress goods, silks, white goods, linens, flannels, comforts, blankets, underwear, hosiery, yarn gloves, embroideries, laces, carpets, ready-to-wear garments and shoes were sold in the store. Design attributed to M. F. Bell.

14. 513 Court Street (Baker and Scruggs), c. 1910. This two-story brick building has a corbeled brick cornice and four 1/1 windows on the second floor. The tall, narrow window openings have a continuous stone lintel that curves over each window like a decorative window hood. The first floor storefront has been altered, but retains a traditional storefront configuration with recessed center entrance and large storefront windows. A shingled canopy has been attached to the building over the transom area of the storefront. [C]

A photograph from 1899 shows a different building at this site. In 1910, the Sanborn map shows a book and wallpaper store in this building. R.O. Baker and R.W. Scruggs established a book business c. 1910 where they carried "an extensive stock of books and stationery, school supplies and wall paper." Their specialty was wallpaper hanging and



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interior decorating. They also advertised having a "large and complete line of the latest patterns in wall paper, mouldings and decorations of all kinds . . . at moderate prices."

15. 515 Court Street (J.W. Cook's Hardware), before 1899. This Italiante-style two-story commercial building is painted white. The cornice line has dentils and evenly spaced brackets. Three second story windows have bracketed window hoods with early or original 2/2 wood windows. The interior has the original wood floor and pressed metal ceiling on the 1st floor and original finishes on the second floor. The first floor has been altered with plate glass and aluminum storefronts, but these retain the traditional commercial storefront design. [C]
16. 517-519 Court Street, c. 1884. Originally two separate buildings, both the same size, the interior wall separating the buildings was removed to create one large building in the early part of the 1900's. Both buildings are two story brick with two sets of double hung windows. [C]

Before being combined into one large commercial building, 517 housed a grocery store from c. 1884 well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. During the same years, at least until 1910, 519 housed a book store.

17. 521 Court. Brick two-story building with recessed pointed arch pattern in the brick above tall double hung windows with continuous stone lintels. [C]

In 1884 this was a dry goods and notions store on the first floor and a clothing store on the second floor. In 1890 it housed a boot and shoe store, in 1917 it was a jewelry store.

18. 523 Court Street (Payne and Henderson Shoe Store). Two story brick with tall segmental arch windows. Architectural shingles currently cover the top 1/5 of the building. Wooden pilasters accentuate both front corners. Below the windows a permanent wooden awning has been added. Interior first floor retains original tin ceiling. [NC]

In 1884 and 1890, a grocery was located here on the first floor and the Masonic lodge was located on the second. In 1895, fruits and notions were sold in the building. In 1902 it was a book and stationary store on the first floor and wallpaper and moldings on the second floor. The Sanborn maps of 1910 and 1917 indicate that this was a shoe store. According to the Fulton Souvenir book of 1912, this was the Payne and Henderson Shoe Store.

Edward H. Payne, the son of E. Howard Payne, a farmer and trader from St. Louis and Maggie A. Robnett Payne, was born in Fulton in 1875. Before opening his shoe store, he worked in the dry good business. E.C. Henderson, who was born in 1873, was a traveling shoe salesman in the Fulton area and was a member of the Masonic Lodge.



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19. 525 Court Street, c. 1895. The two-story brick building has red stretcher bond with thin mortar joints. The decorative corbeled cornice line has three recessed panels with Greek cross motif underneath the corbelling and three segmental arch windows with rock faced stone lug sills. The storefront has a modern aluminum storefront that retains a traditional storefront configuration. A shingled canopy has been installed over the transom windows. [C]

This building first appears on the 1895 Sanborn map. At that time, 525 Court was a dry goods. In 1912, the Fulton Souvenir noted that the store was called the Tompkins-Christian-Moore Dry Goods Company. J. T. Tompkins, R. E. Christian and Moss Alexander were the heads of this company (est. 1888). It later became Tompkins-Christian-Alexander Dry Goods Company. The business closed c. 1925 according to Kathryn Christian, a cashier who worked in the store from her college graduation (c. 1922) until the store closed. She remembers its three floors (including the mezzanine, which was later removed). Coats were sold on the mezzanine level and ready-to-wear was sold on the third level. She also recalls the cylinder shoots that were used to send things from one floor to another. According to Christian, Mode Payne owned the building.

20. 527 Court, c. 1888. 527 and 529 Court Street were constructed at the same time and have identical second story facades, though 527 is only three bays wide compared to its neighbor which has four bays. The two-story brick building has a decorative cornice treatment created by laying the bricks at an angle to form a textured diamond pattern. Below the corbeled cornice is a limestone belt course. The segmental arched windows rest on a continuous lug sill. The building has original or early 1/1 double hung window. The storefront is not original, but could date from the 1940s. The storefront has Vitrolite glass kickplates and aluminum framed plate glass windows. [C]

The 1895 Sanborn maps shows this building as housing a book stationery and wall paper store, though by 1902 it was part of a furniture and carpet business. In 1910, the building was a grocery and Queens ware store and in 1917 jewelry store.

21. 529 Court Street (Humphreys-Atkinson-Reid Furniture Company), c. 1888. 527 and 529 Court Street were constructed at the same time and have identical second story facades, though 529 is four bays wide compared to its neighbor which has bays. The two-story brick building has a decorative cornice treatment created by laying the bricks at an angle to form a textured diamond pattern. Below the corbeled cornice is a limestone belt course. The segmental arched windows rest on a continuous lug sill. The 2<sup>nd</sup> story windows are not original, but were constructed to fit within the original window opening. Original transom windows are exposed over the flat metal canopy of the storefront. The storefront is not original, but may date to the 1950s. It has low kickplates and large aluminum framed



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windows and doors. A cast-iron pilaster, stamped "Christopher and Simpson - St. Louis, MO." is still visible. [C]

The 1907 Fulton City Directory lists 529 as Godfrey and Atkinson's Furniture Store, though by March 1912 the business had been reincorporated, becoming Humphreys-Atkinson-Reid Furniture Company. This store carried "parlor suites, chiffoniers, dressers, dining room tables, chairs of all kinds, beds and wood mantles. . . carpets and, linoleum goods in all lines. . . conservatively selected." "This store is recognized far and near as being the most handsomely arranged in the city." The business also provided undertaking services.

W.H. Humphreys, who was residing at 312 E. 5th in 1907, was the son of parents from Virginia. He was born and raised in New Bloomfield, MO, where he learned the cabinet-maker's trade. In 1879, he established a furniture business in Fulton that which became Robnett and Humphreys in 1882. C.O. Atkinson was born near Millersburg, MO in 1838. He was a member of the Masons and the Maccabees and served two terms as County Treasurer. H. W. Reid was born in Kansas in 1884 and received his education there. He had been in the hotel business for five years before coming to Fulton. In 1907 he was residing at the Palace Hotel.

In 1946 Berghauser Hardware (see 409 Court St.) was located in the building.

22. 531 Court Street, c. 1910. This two-story brick building is painted and has a simply designed brick corbel cornice. The 2<sup>nd</sup> story has five windows that vary in width and have stone lug sills. The windows 1/1 are not original, but were manufactured to fill the original window openings. The storefront is not original, but may date to the 1950s, it has a deeply recessed storefront and large plate glass display windows. A cloth awning covers the original transom area. The original tin ceiling remains in the building. [C]

A building first appears on this site on the 1910 Sanborn map where it is identified as a moving picture theatre on the first floor and a photography store or studio on the second floor. In 1917 the building was vacant.

23. 533-537 Court Street (IOOF Lodge), c. 1908. This three-story beige brick corner building has an upper façade divided into 4 bays of varying width. The bays are divided by brick pilasters. The windows in each bay have continuous stone sills, some with simple egg and dart bolding beneath them. Upper story windows are a mix of early or original and replacement windows. All windows fill the original fenestration openings. A terra cotta relief of three rings symbolizing the Odd Fellows (I.O.O. F) is located on the top of the façade over a decorative cornice that has an acanthus leaf design. A stone belt course separates the upper stories from the storefront. The storefront is not original, however it maintains a traditional storefront pattern consisting of kickplates, large display windows and recessed



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entrance. [C]

In 1910, this building housed a grocery store on the first floor, the public library on the second floor and the I.O.O.F Lodge on the third floor. The I.O.O.F. lodge remained at that location until 2003. The grocery store, Everheart and Hudnall, "The Home of Fresh Groceries" was established in, 1908 and by 1912 employed 9 assistants. It was described in 1912 as having "the most up-to-date fixtures and show cases". A large stock of staple and fancy groceries, meats and queens ware were carried.

W.B. Everheart was the active manager of the store as well as the proprietor. Everheart was born in Williamsburg, MO in 1877. He received his early schooling there, went to high school and college in Fulton. He began to work as a clerk in a grocery store when he was in his teens, and after 21 years finally opened his own business. In 1912, he was described as "a worthy example of what a person can do who has no means with which to work, but has a generous supply of ambition, energy and perseverance" and as one who "believed in the brotherhood of man". He was an active member of the Masonic Lodge and Elks.

24. 601 Court Street, The front half of the lot is parking and the back half is a modern one story Colonial Revival style brick building with a walk out basement. [NC]
25. 607 Court Street, 1931. This two story brick building has a very simple façade. The plain brick second story has a signboard area outlined in brick above the 2<sup>nd</sup> story windows. These window openings have a flat arch with keystone. The windows appear to be replacements, though they fill the original window openings. Windows and doors on the secondary facades have been bricked in. The first floor has been extensively altered. Round pillars support the second floor that has been filled in with modern multi-paned windows and residential type doors. [C]
26. 609-615 Court Street (Fulton Cinema), 1926. A survey of Fulton identifies this theatre as Flemish revival. It is a red brick building the approximate height of a three-story building. The wide front façade has a central bay with three large stained/art glass windows separated by stone pilasters and topped by a bracketed mansard window hood. A round brick parapet tops the central bay. The bays on either side of center have decorative brick patterns that look like large stylized faces. [C]
27. 701 Market (Kingdom Oil Company), 1937. This one story brick building is white with lines of darker brick at the top of the parapet wall. The building sits on a corner lot and has an angled façade. The building originally housed a full service filling station and retains a great deal of integrity from its construction date. [C]



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28. 6 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street (First Christian Church), 1911. This high-style Neoclassical Revival church has an octagonal dome with tiled roof. Each section of the dome has a small dormer with multi paned dormer. A decorative cornice circles the dome as well as the rectangular wings and porches. The exterior and interior of the building look much as they did when constructed. Both balconies are original and the altar, pews, pulpit and choir loft are original wood. The interior of the dome is painted. An addition that includes offices and a fellowship hall was built in 1964. [C]
29. 610 Court Street. This two-story brick building has an irregular fenestration pattern on both floors of the façade. The brickwork on the cornice has a slightly projecting band with evenly spaced, recessed squares. The first floor has a round arched window and door with decorative brick hoods on the north section of the façade and a storefront with large display windows and aluminum framed doors to the south. [C]
30. 600 Court Street. The brick, stone capped, pilasters that project above the parapet wall of this two-story building separate three wide bays. Each bay has a pair of flat arched windows with stone sills. The center bay has a small metal balcony. The windows are not original, but fill the original fenestration opening. The storefront retains two early cast iron columns, though the large display windows and aluminum entrance doors are modern replacements. [C]
31. 534 Court Street (Union Planters Bank), 1977. This modern one-story bank building does not contribute to the historic character of the district. [NC]
32. 532 Court Street, 1891. 532 and 530 Court were constructed at the same time with a unified façade. The windows on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the building have flat arches and have a continuous rock-faced stone sills. The lintels are also rock faced, but have a staggered pattern with stone above each window and at a lower level between windows. The building once had a more elaborate pressed metal cornice line inscribed with the date of construction (1891), though this is now gone, the name "Powell" remains in the center section of the dentiled cornice. The first floor façade has been rebuilt with darker brick and has a newer storefront. [C]

In 1895, 534 was a harness shop on the first floor and a telephone and printing office on the second floor. In 1902, 534 was a pool hall. Circa 1908, the Modern Electric Supply Co., was established at 534 Court. Electrical fixtures, supplies and appliances, including fixtures for lights, chandeliers and wall globes were supplies at this store and the business also offered electrical contracting services as well. In 1912, the shop was said to have been "completely equipped with machinery of modern make for the repair and construction of electrical machinery of every description." Mr. H. E. Pemberton was the manager of the



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business. He was born in Fulton in 1883. He was a member of the Elks Lodge, the B. of A. and Yoeman. Three full-time mechanics were employed in the business in 1912.

33. 530 Court Street, 1891. 532 and 530 Court were constructed at the same time with a unified façade. The windows on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the building have flat arches and continuous rock-faced stone sills. The lintels are also rock faced, but have a staggered pattern with stone above each window and at a lower level between windows. The building once had a more elaborate pressed metal cornice line inscribed with the date of construction (1891), though this is now gone, the name "Powell" remains in the center section of the dentiled cornice. The first floor façade has been rebuilt with darker brick and has a newer storefront. [C]

The Hockensmith Pantorium was located at 532 Court in 1912. This was a clothes cleaning, pressing and mending establishment. This business, established c. 1900, was in 1912 equipped with "the steam dry room and power ironers." The business had three employees in 1912 including a merchant tailor who was said to be an "authority on the latest style and fashion and an expert in putting his ideas into execution." N. Hockensmith, the owner, was born in Columbia, MO in 1884 and was in the telephone and plumbing business prior to his entry into the dry cleaning business. He was a member of the I.O.O.F. the Maccabees and the Owls.

34. 528 Court Street (Blattner Furniture), c. 1917. The façade of this two-story building is decorated with a variety of brick patterns. The dark reddish-brown brick is laid in a Flemish bond at the top, English bond at the window level, and is lined with header bricks below the windows. The first story has common running bond around the storefront. The flat arched second story windows have continuous lintels and sills denoted by bricks laid in a stretcher pattern. The brickwork is similar to that of a building on E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street designed by F. Maerz. [C]
35. 526 Court Street (Carter Building), c. 1910. Designed by architect M. F. Bell, this two-story beige brick building retains a high degree of historic integrity. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor has original wood, flat arch windows with stone lintels and continuous lug sills. The cornice is trimmed with smooth limestone and the center bay is surmounted by a half-round section of stone. The entrance has a round arched opening with keystone. It is flanked by slightly projecting buttresses. [C]

The building was planned as an office building for dentist, Dr. T. W. Carter. In 1912, Dr. Carter's office was said to have been equipped with "the best modern electric appliances the market afforded for use in his line of work." Dr. Carter, a Missouri native from Audrain County, practiced dentistry in Texas before moving to Fulton in c. 1904 where he opened a practice and was active in church, the B.A.Y and the I.O.O.F. lodges. And, in 1912, it was



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said that "few men have done more for upbuilding and beautifying Fulton in the way of building substantial modern residences and business houses."

Dr. C.H. Christian, born in 1861 in Barry County, also established an office in the new Carter Building. After working in a store for a number of years to put himself through college, he graduated from the St. Louis Medical College in 1890 and spent one year doing hospital work in St. Louis. He practiced medicine in New Bloomfield, MO for 21 years and then moved to Fulton c. 1912.

36. 524 Court Street, c. 1910. Round arched windows on the second floor and over the side entrance are dominant architectural features on this two-story brick building. The second floor also has a simple corbeled cornice. The storefront is glass and glazed tile with cast iron pilasters (from Pullis Brothers, St. Louis) flanking the windows. [C]
37. 522 Court Street, 1968. This one-story building has brick around the storefront and a modern, corrugated metal roof and canopy. [NC]
38. 518 Court Street, c. 1890. Though the storefront and second story windows were modified in the late 1970s, the late Victorian style of this building can still be seen in the pressed metal cornice and façade. The second story fenestration (now filled in with wood siding and two small windows) are separated by classical columns. A pressed metal cornice line extends over a section of pressed metal in a brick pattern. The storefront has been bricked in (1977) with only small windows and modern entrance doors. A corrugated metal canopy extends over the storefront and wraps around the corner of the building. [NC]
- In 1895, the first floor was a barber shop; the second floor was a dentists office and the third floor a lodge. In 1890, this was the site of the Post Office; it had moved here from next door, 516 Court, where it was in 1884. In 1910 and 1917, 518 Court was a drug store. By 1919, a one -story addition had been added at the rear of the building.
39. 516 Court Street, 1882. Though historically separate businesses, the buildings at 512, 514 and 516 Court Street were constructed at the same time and have a unified design to the upper stories. This 2+ story building has a faux mansard covered in gray and green slate. The mansard area has round arched dormers with louvered vents. 516 has three segmental windows with heavy keystones. The window openings have been filled in with wood siding. A corrugated metal panel covers the transom area and a flat canopy stretches across the storefront. The storefront is modern, though it retains traditional storefront pattern. [C]

This building originally housed a post office, jewelry store and milliner's shop. By 1917, it housed a music store and photography studio.



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40. 514 Court Street, 1882. Though historically separate businesses, the buildings at 512, 514 and 516 Court Street were constructed at the same time and have a unified design to the upper stories. This 2+ story building is slightly taller than its neighbors and has a faux mansard covered in gray and green slate. The mansard area has round arched dormers with louvered vents. 514 has three segmental windows with heavy keystones. The window openings have been filled in with wood and smaller modern windows. A corrugated metal panel covers the transom area and a flat canopy stretches across the storefront. The storefront is modern, though it retains traditional storefront pattern. [C]

In 1908, the Wood Black Dry Goods Company was established at 514 Court Street. Mr. Black stocked both ladies' and gents' furnishing goods, dry goods, carpets, rugs, mattings and notions and also conducted a tailoring department. Wood Black was born in Callaway County in 1881 and was educated in the Fulton Public Schools.

Roger B. Wood, an osteopath had an office at 514 in 1912. He began practice c. 1899. He was born in Callaway County in 1861 and was educated in the rural Callaway Co. Schools and at the Strother Institute in Monroe Co. He graduated from the Missouri School of Osteopathy at Kirksville, MO and then taught for a year at the Strother Institute and for two years in the Callaway County Schools. He practiced osteopathy for five years in Salisbury, MO before coming to Fulton. He was a member of the I.O.O.F. and the M. W. A.

41. 512 Court Street, 1882. Though historically separate businesses, the buildings at 512, 514 and 516 Court Street were constructed at the same time and have a unified design to the upper stories. This 2+ story building is slightly taller than its neighbors and has a faux mansard covered in gray and green slate. The mansard area has round arched dormers with louvered vents. 512 has four segmental windows with heavy keystones. The window openings have been filled in with wood and smaller modern windows. The storefront has been partially bricked, though it still has large display windows. A cloth canopy covers the transom area. [C]

From 1884 to at least 1890, this building housed an oyster saloon on the first floor and a doctor's office on the second. It later housed a barbershop.

42. 510 Court Street, 1888. This high style Victorian building was constructed at the same time as 508 Court Street and shares a unified façade. The highly ornate façade of this two-story building has an elaborate dentiled cornice and central pediment with ball finials. Decorative pilasters separate the segmental arched windows. A row of rosettes separates the upper façade from the storefront area. Based on Sanborn maps, this façade was added sometime between 1895 and 1902. Though the storefront is modern, it has been designed



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to look like an early storefront window with wood kickplates, and large display windows. [C]

Early in its history, the building was used as a jewelry store. This function shows on the Sanborn maps of 1890 through 1917. John Wolz and his son, Otto, operated a jewelry store here that was established in 1894. Mr. Wolz's daughter also assisted in the business. Items offered for sale included watches, clocks and optional ware.

43. 508 Court Street, 1888. This high style Victorian building was constructed at the same time as 510 Court Street and shares a unified façade. The highly ornate façade of this two-story building has an elaborate dentiled cornice and central pediment with ball finials. Decorative pilasters separate the segmental arched windows. A row of rosettes separates the upper façade from the storefront area. Based on Sanborn maps, this façade was added sometime between 1895 and 1902. Though the storefront is modern, it has been designed to look like an early storefront window with wood kickplates, and large display windows. [C]

The building was used for multiple uses in its early history including a drug store, jewelry store and insurance office. W.B. Harris and J. H. Harris, twin brothers, established the Fulton Real Estate Agency at 508 Court in 1905. (W. B. Harris was at one time a member of the City Council).

44. 1-7 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street, (The Callaway Bank), 1972. This monolithic brick building has bands of narrow vertical windows. [NC]
45. 9 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, c.1890. The two story building has a cast metal façade. Narrow fluted pilasters separate pares of tall modern windows. The storefront retains its cast iron pilasters on either corner, but has a modern wood storefront. [NC]
46. 11 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, c. 1900. The metal façade of this two-story building is very detailed. Ball finials flank the side of the deniled cornice. A row of square rosettes also decorates the cornice line. Pilasters topped with heavy square capitals separate the three early or original 1/1 windows. A row of dentils and rosettes separate the upper story from the storefront. The storefront retains its cast iron columns and pilasters. The storefront is not original but retains a traditional storefront pattern with wood paneled kickplates, and recessed entrance. [C]
47. 13 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 2000. This two story brick building was designed to fit in with the surrounding historic buildings. [NC]
48. 10 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Callaway County Courthouse, 1938. This two story brick and limestone building has a stylized temple front with tall flat entablature supported by four Doric pilasters. Brick wings with stone cornice lines and raised limestone foundation flank either



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side of the entrance. The cornice has bas-relief carvings depicting important events in county history. These carvings include: Lewis & Clark Expedition (1804), first homestead (1808), first church (1818), famous trail (1821), first publication or newspaper (1839), first railroad (1855), Civil War and founding of the "Kingdom of Callaway" (1861). [C]

49. 2-8 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, (Adams Building), 1890. This three-story corner building has a chamfered (angled) entrance bay and cast iron facade (Capital Street) with a pressed tin bracketed cornice. The cast iron facade has large, original 2/2 wood windows on the first and second floor and narrow display windows on either side of the corner entrance. Small balconies protrude from the angled bay on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors. The long brick wall that faces 5<sup>th</sup> Street has a corbeled brick cornice and different window patterns on all three floors. The Third story windows are segmental arches with rock-faced hood moldings and smooth stone sills. A row of terra cotta in a floral motif separates the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors. The second story windows are flat-arched with rockfaced lintels. The first story windows are small 1/1 windows with round arches and limestone keystones. [C]

The cast iron facade was made by the Scherpe-Koken Architectural Iron Works, which started in 1880 as Koken, Graydon and Co., St. Louis. The company was also known as the Enterprise Architectural Iron Works and Foundry. In 1893, the firm became the Koken Iron Works. The company is now the Banner Iron Works and deals in structural steel fabrication. The company's catalogue in 1887 listed 26 store fronts and more than 75 designs for columns. In 1895, 90 columns and more than 50 facades were illustrated.

The building has had a colorful history. It was built as an office building in 1890 by a Mr. Phil S. Adams who was, at the time, a banker in Fulton. However, shortly after the building was finished, Mr. Adams embezzled several thousand dollars from the bank, left Fulton and was never seen again. At this point, the building was purchased by a member of the Jameson family who then sold it to Harvey Clapp. Mr. Clapp's son is the current owner. The building has been used for several purposes. It has housed offices, private residences and at one time the first floor was a bowling alley. A fraternal organization, the Knights of Pythias once used the third story room as its lodge and the initials K of P are emblazoned on the roof pediment. Also, when the Delta Tau Delta social fraternity came to Westminster College in 1939 it is believed that the chapter room was also in that third floor room of the building, because their crest was painted on the wall.

50. 10 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, c. 1900. This two-story building has a decorative cornice line with brick dentils and brackets. The second story has three tall, narrow windows with simple limestone hoods. The storefront has been covered with wood and has had new windows and doors installed. [C]
51. 12-16 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street. This two-story, 7 bay building has an ornate pressed metal cornice



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with large brackets. A small round arched pediment tops the center bay. Second story windows appear to be early or original and have segmental arches outlined in stone. The center window is taller than the others and has a round arch. A continuous band of stone acts as the sills for the windows. The building has two storefronts. The eastern most storefront has been altered to look like a gable front house with residential type windows and doors. The western storefront is modern, but has a more traditional storefront of recessed entrance and large display windows. [C]

In 1912 this was the location of the Hull Mercantile Company. This company, established in 1909, handled men's furnishings, including hats, shirts, caps, shoes, etc. and trunks, suitcases and jewelry. The business covered two floors 40 X 60 in 1912 and employed 5 workers. Mr. D. W. Hull was the active manager of the Hull Mercantile Co. He was born in Iowa in 1886, received his early education there and attended Westminster College. He was a member of the K. & L. of S., Masons and M.W.A.

52. 18 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street. This two-story building has a cornice line similar to its neighbor to the east, however the window configuration and other façade details denote that it is a separate building. The second floor windows have a continuous sill and heavy stone lintels. The window in the center bay has a round arch, while the windows that flank it have polygonal tops. The transom area and structural members of the storefront have been covered with metal siding, though the building retains a traditional storefront configuration of recessed entrance and large display windows. [C]
53. 100 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street (U.S. Post Office), 1915. Designed by James A. Wetmore, this 1+ story building has Flemish bond brickwork and a truncated hipped roof. The façade has large, round arched windows with multi-paned windows. A molded limestone cornice circles three sides of the building. [C]

This was the U.S. Post Office for over 80 years. There are still metal postal boxes on the West wall of the entrance hall and upper glass curved windows above what were the postal windows. The cornerstone reads: William G. McAdoo, Secretary of the Treasury; James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect, 1915.

54. 7 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, c. 1900. This two-story brick building has a simple cornice line of brick "brackets" supporting two rows of stretcher bricks. The center window of the second floor has been infilled, but the other two retain the original window openings with stone lintels and sills. The first floor has a newer storefront designed to look historic. Two original cast metal pilasters, manufactured by Christopher & Simpson of St. Louis are extant on the first floor. [C]

The building was a paint store in 1910 and a tailor's shop in 1917. Prior to that it was a



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part of the business at 501 Court Street.

55. 9-11 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 1899. Windows on the second floor have round arches. Though the tall narrow windows have been replaced with wood panels and smaller modern windows, the openings are clearly discernable. Cornice is decorated with terra cotta tiles with decorative motifs that include a fleur-de-lis in every other tile. The date 1899 appears at the top center of the building flanked by two bracketed brick pillars. Original or early transom windows can still be seen on the first floor, though the storefront has been replaced by modern brick and glass. [C]

The Dutton-Herndon Furniture and Undertaking Company was once housed in the building. Edward William Herndon and Roy C. Taylor founded the company. Fred Blattner later joined the firm and when Herndon and Taylor retired he bought out their interests in the business. Besides selling furniture, preparations for burial were made in the basement rooms of the store and the funerals themselves were held in individual's homes.

56. 15-17 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, c. 1900. An elaborate dentiled cornice with an entablature of swags and wreaths in pressed metal tops this two-story building. The center section has a brick pediment with a band of terra cotta with a swirled pattern. The central bay has four round arched windows with large key stone. The two side bays are flanked with stone pilasters with metal Corinthian capitals and have flat arched fenestration. The transom and structural members of the storefront have been covered with vertical metal siding. Large modern display windows flank a central, recessed, entrance. [C]

Early in its history, this building housed the Henderson Department Store. The store was said to handle "a large and general line of ladies' ready-to-wear garments, shoes, dry goods, gent's furnishings, rugs and millinery and a greater idea of the magnitude of the business transacted and the immense stock carried can be gained when it is stated that they occupy over 7200 square feet of floor space and give steady employment to nine courteous clerks." Established in 1909, Henderson's was one of the largest department stores in the area. Mr. W. H. Henderson, the manager, was born in Fulton in 1875 and received his education here at Westminster College. In 1912 the real estate, insurance and loan firm of Adcock, Gilpin and Criswell was located in the building.

57. 113 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, c. 1910. This two story polychromatic brick building has four uneven bays. The brick parapet is divided in three sections by short pilasters. The sections are filled with white brick in a common bond pattern. The second floor has three tall narrow windows and a wider, paired window, opening over the entrance bay. The windows have stone sills and lintels and have been filled in with smaller windows and wood. Brick piers with stone plinths divide the storefront. The transom areas have been covered with wood, but large windows and doors fill the rest of the space. [C]



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The building originally housed the Fulton Laundry. Operated by Mr. F. A. Black who was a native of Fulton. The business covered 4500 square feet of floor space. Sixteen employees were required and a number of wagons were kept busy delivering and gathering laundry.

58. 111 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, c. 1900. This one-story commercial building has a corbeled brick cornice. The storefront still retains its original four columns, though wood siding and small display windows have replaced the transoms and storefront windows. [C]

The original business handled fresh and salt meats and was owned by R. B. Greger. "A fine line of fresh beef, pork, fish and oysters in season are handled and carefully selected to meet the demands of the particular and discriminating people who shop there. 1000 square feet of floor space is used for the display of his products, while three capable assistants are employed to wait upon the trade. Mr. Greger was born in Champaign, IL, in 1881 and received his education in that city. He is a member of the I.O.O.F. and K. of T.M. and was a meat clerk for a number of years before starting business for himself."

59. 109 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, c. 1910. This one-story brick building has a simple corbeled cornice with stone coping. The transom windows have been covered with wood siding, though the recessed entrance and display windows are still extant. Two attenuated Corinthian columns flank the entrance. [C]

Backer's Grocery was housed in this building in 1912. "The stock embraces a full line of the best food supplies, including staple and fancy groceries, peerless canned goods, best brands of flour, produce, vegetables and fruit in season, etc. The store is always kept in a scrupulously clean condition, sanitary in every respect and the goods are attractively displayed. A specialty is made of queensware of which an extensive line is carried. This business covers a space of 1200 square feet and a warehouse for the storing of the reserve stock. Mr. Samuel Backer was born in Fulton in 1877. He is a valued member of M.B.A."

60. 105-107 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street. This one-story brick building is highly intact, with only minor alterations such as paint and new signs over the two storefront windows. The parapet wall has a decorative, corbeled brick cornice. Original display windows, transoms and recessed entrances are intact. [C]

Established in 1892, Backer and Son was one of the early hardware stores in Callaway County. Carrying a large line of builders' hardware, tools, cutlery, stoves, ranges and tinning. "This store occupies about 4800 square feet of floor space besides a warehouse of 2500 square feet. Backer & Son make a specialty of Indian Motorcycles, and sporting



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goods, they also handle the largest line of sporting goods in this city. All sporting goods used by the Colleges are furnished by this firm. Mr. L. H. Backer was born in Fulton in 1861 and received his education as well as his business experience in this place. He is a member of the Macabees, K. & L.S. and Yeomen of the World. Mr. H. E. Backer and W. C. Backer, the junior members of the firm, were born in this city and are young men of sterling worth and ability. These gentlemen are ranked among the city's most up-to-date and progressive business men."

61. 103 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, c. 1910. The second story windows of this wide 2 story building are relatively small for the large expanse of brick on the upper floors. They have heavy stone lintels and sills. The corbeled brick cornice is topped with rows of newer brick that probably replaced stone coping. The first floor façade has been altered with a modern wood, glass and stone storefront. [C]

The Fulton, Missouri Past and Present Progress and Prosperity Souvenir booklet notes an early business in the building with this comment: "The Miller & Worley Dry Goods Co.(c. 1910) has 7200 square feet of floor space used for the various departments, displaying to an advantage the various lines carried. A large line of dry goods, notions, ladies furnishing, carpets, ladies ready-to-wear garments, and ladies and children's shoes are carried."

62. 501-511 Nichols Street, 1892. This two story brick building has an angled corner entrance at the intersection of Nichols and 5<sup>th</sup> streets. The large commercial block has a simple cornice line of angled brick. The second story fenestration has been infilled with brick and smaller windows, although the original window openings can be clearly seen. New brick has been installed around the large display windows. The Nichols Street elevation has windows similar to the primary façade on the end floor, and early or original 1/1 round arched windows on the first. Another storefront is located at the far north end of this elevation. [C]

J. L. McDonald used 511 Nichols as a poultry and produce shop, established in the 1890's. The business was devoted "exclusively to buying and selling of eggs, butter, poultry, hides, etc." "2800 square feet of floor space is utilized by this business. Mr. J. L. McDonald was born in Ohio in 1864. Previous to going into the produce business, Mr. McDonald engaged in the farming and butchering business. He is a valued member of the I.O.O.F. and K. & L. of Security."

509 Nichols was used by M. Grant Duncan and Jack Brooks as a tin and sheet iron shop (established 1910). The firm's services included re-roofing. "A specialty is made of repairing, re-roofing, installing furnaces and heating apparatus. These gentlemen carry in stock and install the Holland furnace which is considered of the best quality and



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mechanism, easily operated and has radiation for any size building.; also consuming the least fuel. Mr. M. Grant Duncan was born in New Bloomfield in 1867 and went to school there. He was engaged in the hardware business for twenty-two years before embarking on a business career for himself. He is an honored member of the I.O.O.F. and has been chief of the fire department for twelve years. Mr. "Jack" Brooks was also born in New Bloomfield in 1882 educated in Fulton and clerked for a hardware firm for fourteen years. He is a member of the I.O.O.F. and Maccabees."

63. 513-515 Nichols Street, c. 1890. This two story brick building has a cornice line of corbeled and angled brick. The second floor windows are tall and narrow with segmental arches. The two storefronts are separated by a round arched door opening that provides access to the stairs to the second floor. Modern aluminum and glass storefronts that have a traditional storefront pattern have replaced the originals. [C]

Backer and Sons Hardware, (H. E. and W.C.) Established in 1892, it was one of the largest stores in Fulton at the time. Besides hardware, such as tools, cutlery, stoves, tinning, the store was also stocked with sporting goods, bicycles and later motorcycles. By 1912, the store had moved to larger quarters at 105 W. 5th. However, the Backers continued to own the property till the 1930's.

64. 517 Nichols Street, c. 1880. This two-story brick building has a stone foundation. The second story has double-hung windows with radiating arches and lug sills. [C]
65. 523 Nichols Street, c. 1900. The two-story building has a decorative brick cornice line. Bricks are arranged to look like a small blind arcade of pointed arches, over which a row of angled bricks is arranged. The second story windows have been bricked in, although the outline of the original openings are discernable. The transom window has been covered in metal. The storefront is metal with large display windows. There is a one-story annex on this building. The annex, though shorter, has the same architectural features as the main block. [C]

In 1904, Judt-Harris Hardware Co. was established and located in this building. "Two floors 30 X 40 and a warehouse of two floors 30 X 60 feet are used for the storage of the reserve stock. The following is a partial list of the articles carried: hardware, farming implements, thresher supplies, wire fencing, buggies, wagons, stoves and ranges. They make a specialty of the Yale-Town goods, such as padlocks, night latches, builders hardware, ornaments, cabinet locks, trunk locks, Blount door checks and chain hoists." "The members of the firm are Mr. John N. Judt who was born in Fulton in 1859 and was formerly a member of the firm of Berghauser Hardware Co. for 24 years. He is a member of the Owls, and is City Clerk. Mr. Wade J. Harris was born in Boone County in 1858 and received his early education in that county and afterwards attended the University at



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Columbia. Mr. Harris, previous to going into the hardware business was a stock raiser in Arkansas."

66. 527 Nichols Street, c.1880s. This rectangular 1+ story building has very little architectural detail. Small square windows are punched into the wall on the upper façade. Display windows on the first floor have been filled in with wood and smaller plate glass windows. This may have been part of the old Fulton Lumber Company since frame buildings associated with the company were attached to the rear of the building. [C]
67. 8 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, c. 1890. The second floor has tall, narrow, segmental arched fenestration that has been infilled with slightly smaller 1/1 windows. The brick cornice is similar to many vernacular commercial buildings in Fulton. The first floor has been covered in vertical wood siding and small fixed windows have been installed. A small frame addition has filled in the alley between this and the building at 535 Court Street. [NC]
68. 10 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, c. 1890. This 2+ story building has been greatly altered. Horizontal siding covers the upper façade and small modern windows installed. The storefront has been covered in vertical siding and modern display windows installed. [NC]

The building seems to have been built between 1890 and 1895, according to the Sanborn Maps. The building was used as a carriage works shop, in which "painting and trimming" were done on the second floor. In 1910 it was listed as a wagon shop.

R.H. Fowler, a blacksmith, ran the business. Fowler was born in Virginia in 1836 and received his education in the rural schools in Callaway County. He worked for 15 years in the grocery business in Mexico before coming to Fulton. He was a member of the Masons and was the Mayor of Fulton from April 1898 - April 1906 and again from April 1910 - April 1914. In 1907 he lived at 107 W. 7th with his wife, Elizabeth and their daughter, Laura. In 1917, this building was vacant.

69. 12 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, c. 1917. This two story building has been greatly altered. Two brick "towers" flank a slightly shorter center bay. The center bay is covered in vertical wood siding and a picture window has been installed in the second floor. The storefront also has vertical wood siding along the kickplate and modern doors and display windows. This building was originally the Gem Theatre. [NC]
70. Brick Streets, c. 1910. The brick is laid on a sand base in a running bond pattern. Brick paving runs from 7<sup>th</sup> Street down Court to 4<sup>th</sup> Street. On Nichols Avenue from 4<sup>th</sup> Street to 6<sup>th</sup> Street, from Nichols to Market on 6<sup>th</sup>, from Jefferson to Market on 5<sup>th</sup> and from Market to Nichols on 4th. [C]



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### Summary

The Downtown Fulton Historic District, located in the historic commercial center of Fulton, Callaway County, is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture and under Criterion A in the areas of Commerce and Politics/Government. The district boundaries encompass the largest intact grouping of historic commercial buildings in the city and also include the County Courthouse. Fulton has been the county seat since 1825, and as such the town has developed a commercial center with businesses and services to meet the needs of the county's citizens. These businesses and institutions have influenced the growth and development of Fulton and Callaway County. The buildings in the district represent several periods of development and contain contributing buildings dating between 1877 and 1938. Though most of the buildings are vernacular two-part commercial blocks, the buildings' elaborate brick cornices demonstrate the skill of local brick masons. There are also notable examples of high style commercial architecture such as the buildings at late Victorian buildings at 508-510 Court Street and 2 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street. In addition, many buildings have pressed metal facades and classically derived architectural details. The overall integrity of the district is high with 58 of 70 resources contributing to the historic character of the district. The period of significance is c. 1877-1954, which includes the date of the earliest extant building through the arbitrary 50-year cut off date.

### Elaboration:

Fulton is the county seat of Callaway County. Organized in 1820 from a section of Montgomery County, Callaway County's first county seat was located in Elizabeth (named for Mrs. Henry Brite, Elizabeth was located near what is now Hams Prairie). The county seat was moved in 1825 to a more central location in the county. George Nichols sold a plot of land to the county for \$50.00 and cleared an area for the new county seat. Originally known as Volney, the name of the new community was quickly changed to Fulton in honor of the inventor of the steamboat, Robert Fulton.<sup>1</sup>

Callaway County had permanent settlements as early as 1800, and grew as emigrants from southern states such as Virginia and the Carolinas settled the area. Though groups of Germans settled in the southern portion of the county in the 1830s and 1840s, the culture of the southern emigrants dominated and many county residents maintained southern sympathies. The support for the Confederate cause in the county during the Civil War led to an incident that provided the county with the nickname "Kingdom of Callaway." Though the exact events are not clear, the legend tells of a group of county residents who created a ghost army of fake cannons (tree trunks on wagon wheels), and imaginary troops to confront Federal forces camped near the county's border. The illusion of a well-trained and armed militia was enough to win some concessions from the Federal troops that would soon occupy the area. Though occupied, local residents apparently retained some freedom and independence, thus spawning

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<sup>1</sup> *History of Callaway County*. St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1884. Reprinted by The Printery, Clinton, MO, 1972, p.185.



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the title of "Kingdom of Callaway." The term is still in used today.<sup>2</sup>

By the time Fulton was incorporated in March of 1859, the town was a well-established governmental and commercial center. Though not a large town by today's standards, Fulton had numerous factors that positively affected its historic development. As the county seat, it had an early advantage over other Callaway County communities and became a center of governmental and commercial activities. Its location only 25 miles from the state capital, Jefferson City, also impacted its development. In February of 1847, the Missouri General Assembly voted to establish an asylum for the insane in the community. This was the first mental health facility west of the Mississippi River, and is still an important institution in the city. Shortly thereafter, in February of 1851, the state legislature agreed to establish a school for the deaf in Fulton.<sup>3</sup>

Educational facilities had a significant impact on the growing community. In addition to the school for the deaf, Fulton was also the location of two colleges opened by the Presbyterian Church. The first, a female seminary later known as Synodical College, opened in 1842. The second, a college for men, was opened in 1851. Originally known as Fulton College, the institution is now Westminster College. This school would later become the site of Winston Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech given at the college on March 4, 1946. In 1890, the Christian Church moved their Female Orphan School, now William Woods University, to Fulton. All of these educational facilities, except Synodical College, are still active and influential parts of the community.<sup>4</sup>

The commercial area of Fulton developed around and to the north of the Callaway County Courthouse. The county completed the first brick courthouse in 1827, and later replaced it with a larger, Greek Revival style, building in 1858. Though remodeled in the Second Empire style in 1885, this second courthouse served the community for nearly 80 years.<sup>5</sup> The second courthouse witnessed the development of the extant historic buildings in the nominated district, most of which were built between 1878 and the early 1920s. The grounds of the courthouse became the site of significant social and commercial events during the period of significance. Notably, a stock sale was held on the grounds for over 50 years. The sale was so important to the community that Fulton public schools were closed on Mondays, the day of the sales. The county demolished the second courthouse in 1937 to make way for the current, PWA funded, courthouse that was completed in 1938 and dedicated in 1940.<sup>6</sup> Though newer, the current

<sup>2</sup> A History of Callaway County, Missouri 1984, Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society, 1983, p. v-vi.  
<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p. 60.

<sup>4</sup> Fulton. Missouri Past and Present Progress and Prosperity Souvenir. Freeman Publishing Co., 1912. Reprinted by the Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society, 1981, p.3.

<sup>5</sup> Ohman, Marian M. "Callaway County," Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses, University of Missouri-Columbia, Extension Division, 1981.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.



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courthouse contributes to the architectural heritage of the community as well as the continued commercial vitality of the nominated district.

By 1880, when the commercial district as it is now seen began to develop in earnest, Callaway County had a population of just under 24, 000 and Fulton was a thriving community of approximately 4,000 residents. According to a local history, the community had "eleven churches, 3 public schools, a railroad depot, 10 lawyers, 1 policeman, 2 banks, 4 hotels, 6 restaurants, 9 doctors, a fair ground, an opera house, 3 saloons and a brewery, not including the other usual mills and shops such as blacksmiths."<sup>7</sup>

The earliest extant buildings within the historic district were constructed c. 1880. Notably, the 400 block of Court Street (directly across from the Courthouse Square) includes several buildings dating from this early period of development. These buildings were constructed after a fire in April of 1876 destroyed the block. Only one building, a brick two-part commercial block, survived the flames. New brick buildings quickly replaced the earlier frame construction. These early buildings are simply designed two-part commercial blocks. Each has a decorative brick cornice line along the top of the façade and/or parapet. Apart from 401 Court Street, which has Gothic arched windows, the older buildings on the block do not show the influence of any particular architectural style. They do, however, show the skill of local brick layers in their articulated brick cornices and fenestration. These corbeled brick cornices, often very elaborate, are common characteristic of commercial buildings in the district in all periods of its historic development.



The whole block destroyed by fire April 14, 1876, except John Bartley Building.  
Fulton business stores west of courthouse before 1876.

**400 Block of Court Street before the fire of 1876.**

<sup>7</sup> A History (1984), p. 60.



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While vernacular two-part commercial blocks are the most common, popular architectural styles influenced commercial design in the district. At least two buildings were constructed or remodeled in the Second Empire style. The 1858 county courthouse (now demolished) was remodeled in 1885 with a large mansard roof. The commercial buildings at 512-516 Court Street (constructed around 1882) share a faux mansard covered in slate, small round topped dormers and other classical details, all of which are common characteristics of the Second Empire style. The Italianate style is also in evidence in buildings such as the c. 1880 commercial block at 507 Court Street. The elaborate brick cornice and cast iron window hoods with classically derived details show the influence of the style on this building.

The commercial district and town as a whole continued to develop and become a "modern" city in the 1890s. In downtown, new brick buildings, many with pressed metal and cast iron facades, replaced earlier commercial structures. Classic architectural elements such as dentils, fluted columns and pilasters, applied with abandon on facades, show the influence of late Victorian architecture. The office building at 2 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street is an excellent example of Late Victorian styling as well as the use of new and old technology. The cast iron façade has classical columns, rosettes, and a pedimented cornice, typical of Victorian commercial architecture. The cast iron construction, however, allowed for very large upper story windows in the Court Street façade. In contrast, the brick bearing wall construction of the rest of the building does not allow for equally large fenestration. Approximately 12 of the buildings in the district were constructed during this decade.

Throughout Fulton, new services and technologies were beginning to affect the community. The use of mass produced cast iron and pressed metal allowed for flashy, and relatively inexpensive, façade treatments on the downtown commercial buildings. Additionally new services such as the first public water system (c. 1890) and electricity (c. 1895) were being installed in the residences and commercial buildings.<sup>8</sup> Though the streets and sidewalks were not paved and there was no citywide sewer system, Fulton was rapidly becoming a modern city. Fulton at the end of the nineteenth century was blessed by rapid growth in all areas including business, religion, schools and colleges, doctors, lawyers, banking and of course the size of the city itself.

Fulton continued to prosper into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and it was during the first two decades of the century that downtown Fulton, as we see it today, came to light. Though significant buildings in the district were constructed after 1920, namely the 1938 county courthouse, all but 4 of the contributing buildings in the district were constructed prior to 1920. Twenty-two of these buildings were constructed between c. 1900 and c. 1920. During this time of growth and construction, the downtown grew to encompass twelve city blocks west and north of the courthouse square. Portions of seven of these blocks are being nominated as part of the

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid., p. 61.



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Downtown Fulton Historic District.

With the dawning of the new century came the influence of revival styles on the architecture of the district. Though Victorian influences lingered into the 1910s, notably with the use of ornate pressed metal facades, colonial and other revival styles began to appear in the district. Two notable examples of Neoclassicism are located on Court Street. The Southern Bank of Fulton, 413-15 Court Street (1905), is a restrained example of the style. At the other end of the district, the First Christian Church, 6 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, is a more flamboyant example. The tile covered dome, porticos supported by Doric columns, and other classical details are typical characteristics of the style. Revival style influences can also be seen on the old U.S. Post office (1915) on 5<sup>th</sup> Street and the Fulton Cinema on Court Street. Though these high-style buildings are significant resources in the district, the majority of the buildings constructed during this period of development were more restrained two-part commercial blocks with little or no stylistic attributes.

While less than 5 contributing buildings in the district were built after c. 1920, two of the buildings in the district show the influences of popular "modern" architectural design. The PWA funded courthouse, though traditional in many respects, has stylized features and bas relief carvings indicative of Art Deco design. The angled façade and horizontal stripes, which denote speed and movement, seen on the old Kingdom Oil Company (701 Market) show the influence of the Art Modern style popular in the late 1930s and 1940s.



Kingdom Oil Company c. 1937 (710 Market Street)



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Fulton continued to grow in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and gained some notoriety during the period. Fulton native Henry Bellaman wrote a best selling novel, King's Row in the late 1930s. Fulton was the model for the community depicted in the book and several of the characters were purportedly similar to long-time residents. A movie based on the book, starring future president Ronald Reagan, was released in 1942. Later, in March 1947, Winston Churchill spoke in Fulton and delivered his famous "Iron Curtain" speech. According to an account of the event, the Highway Patrol estimated 25,000 in attendance to hear the speech and see Churchill.<sup>9</sup> The event brought with it a great deal of recognition for the college and community. Because of the event significant politicians and people continue to come to Fulton to visit as well as speak. In 1968, the Westminster College Gymnasium where Churchill gave his speech was designated a National Historic Landmark.

Whether built in the 1880s or in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, numerous buildings in the district can be attributed to local architect M. (Morris) Fred Bell. Bell was a prominent architect in Missouri and was a resident of Fulton from 1871 until his death in 1929. During the course of his career, M. Fred Bell served as State Architect as well as associate architect to public and private institutions such as the State Mental Hospitals in Fulton and Nevada and Stephens College in Columbia.<sup>10</sup>

Born in Hagerstown, Maryland on August 18, 1849, Bell apprenticed in the building trades at a young age and continued his study of architecture at Duff's Mercantile College in Pittsburgh, PA. He came to Missouri, possibly in 1869, and settled in Fulton in 1871. Bell did not limit his designs to commercial and institutional buildings. He apparently had a love of residential architecture and in 1883 published a book called Pleasant Homes and HOW TO MAKE THEM! Three of his residential buildings in Fulton (Bell, M. Fred, Rental Cottage, listed 7/1/1997; Bell, M. Fred, Speculative Cottage, listed 6/30/1995; and the Brandon-Bell-Collier House, listed 12/24/1998) are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Approximately 40 Bell-designed houses are still extant in the community. In addition to these residential buildings, six of the contributing buildings in Columbia, Missouri's Francis Quadrangle Historic District (listed 12/1973) are also Bell designed. The Downtown Fulton Historic district has 5 remaining buildings known to have been designed by Bell. Bell may have also designed others, but no direct link has been drawn between Bell and other commercial designs in the district. Examples of Bell's commercial designs can be seen at 501, 511 and 526 Court Street.

In addition to architecture, Bell had an influential political career in Missouri and a "professional hobby" in Fulton. Bell served as Paymaster General to the state militia in 1883 and as Adjutant

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<sup>9</sup> Reflections, A Pictorial History Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Winston Churchill's 1946 Visit to Westminster College.

<sup>10</sup> Vicki McDaniel, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for the Bell, M. Fred, Rental Cottage, Fulton, Callaway County, Missouri, listed on the National Register on 7/10/1997.



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general in 1887. He was also on the personal staff of Governor Alexander Dockery who promoted Bell to Brigadier General. Bell later acted as an assistant to John Martin, the sergeant-at-arms at the Democratic National Convention of 1908.<sup>11</sup> At a local level, Bell's "hobby" was the opening of a telephone exchange in Fulton in 1882. This was the first installation phone service in Missouri outside of Kansas City and St. Louis. Bell served as general manager of the business for nearly 50 years.<sup>12</sup>

Downtown Fulton was the commercial hub of the community throughout the period of significance. Sanborn Maps from 1884 through 1930 show a variety of businesses established to serve the needs of the community. Throughout the historic period grocery, dry good and hardware stores were common. Other merchandise such as men's clothing, boots and shoe, and household furniture could be purchased at several establishments throughout the district. Professional services and photographers were commonly found on second floors. Though doctor's offices were also common second floor businesses, at least one building, the Carter Building at 526 Court Street was constructed specifically to house a doctor and dentist's office. The more private business conducted in this building is reflected in its first story which was not designed with a typical storefront display window.

The growth and prosperity of Fulton in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century apparently had its highs and lows. One source praises the opening of Pratt's Theatre in 1904 as a "refining of social life."<sup>13</sup> The theatre featured local acts as well as touring groups and became a cultural center of the community. On the other side, introduction of automobiles, approximately 25 by 1910, may have caused a few problems in the community. Soon after their introduction to the Fulton the city council set a fine of \$5 to \$100 for automobiles that exceeded the 8 mile per hour speed limit.<sup>14</sup>

Though a thriving small city with many cultural and urban advantages, Fulton also served the agricultural community of the region. Starting in 1872, farm auctions were held on the grounds of the courthouse. Eventually they were being held on the first Monday of every month. The stock sales were so important to the community that Fulton Public Schools adjusted their schedules around stock sale days. During the weeks of the sales, students attended school Tuesday through Saturday, so that a "Stock Sales Day" holiday could be observed on Monday. Reportedly, there were as many as six auctioneers simultaneously crying stock sales around the square and thousands of dollars changed hands. On one sale day in March 1910, sales for the day totaled more than \$1.5 million.<sup>15</sup> It is likely that individuals coming to Fulton for the stock auctions would also spend time at commercial establishments on and around the square,

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> A History (1984), p. 60.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Souvenir, 3.



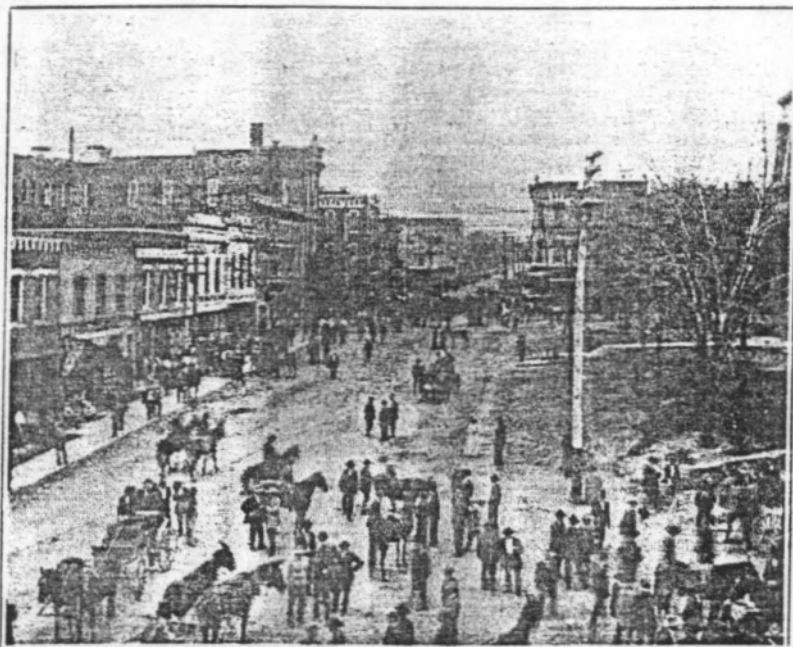
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bolstering the economic vitality of the district.



**Stock Sale Day c. 1910.** Photo shows the 400 block of Court Street.<sup>16</sup>

Commercial progress in Fulton continued with the organization of a commercial club in 1905. The club soon had 175 members from nearly every type of business and profession.<sup>17</sup> The Commercial Club was instrumental in helping Fulton to acquire business and industry such as the Fulton Overall Manufacturing Company in 1909 and the depot for the Chicago and Alton Railway. The club became an advocate for road improvements and through its efforts seven important roads were paved for four miles leading into the town. The club changed its name to the Chamber of Commerce in 1924.<sup>18</sup>

### Government

Fulton, most likely, would not have developed as it has (or even existed) if it had not first been the county seat of Callaway County. As noted in A History of Callaway County 1984:

Being the county seat does not, alone, guarantee that a town will be largest or most

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> A History (1984), 60.



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important in the county. But a look at a map of Missouri will show that to be the general case. There are several reasons for this. When folk in the outlying parts of the county travel to the county seat to take care of business at the county offices, they very often also do their banking, their shopping and buying of groceries. To know where to shop for one's needs one needs to read the local paper or listen to the local radio station. This in turn acquaints one further with the social things that are available. The county seat becomes one's shopping area. This has a decided effect on the finances and economy of that city. In addition friendships are made and a bond established between the individual and the city.<sup>19</sup>

Callaway County, named for Capt. James Callaway who was killed fighting Indians near Loutre Lick, was organized on November 25<sup>th</sup> 1820.<sup>20</sup> Elizabeth, about six miles south of present day Fulton, was the original county seat, and circuit court and other county proceedings took place there in the early 1820s. A new, more central location for the County seat was located in 1825 and soon Fulton had its first courthouse. Two courthouses, the first log the second in brick, were built in relatively quick succession. The third courthouse, which was used for the longest time, was constructed in 1858 and used until the new courthouse was built in 1938. The 1858 courthouse had a long and rich history. During its life span, this building saw every thing from the sale of slaves at its west door to the development of downtown Fulton as it stands today.

The current courthouse was built in 1938 with the aid of the Federal Public Works Administration. The PWA approved a grant for 45% of the cost of construction and voters approved a bond issue in June of 1938 to match the grant. The PWA paid \$102,000 of the total cost while the remaining \$125,000 was supplied by the county as a result of the bond election. The building was dedicated on March 18, 1940.<sup>21</sup> This Art Deco detailed building is constructed of brick and stone. An interesting stairway on the south side has a limestone newel post depicting a bundle of reeds. Greek key designs decorate cast iron window spandrels. There are 8 roundels with carvings located near the top corner of each facade that depict significant events in county history. These events include: Lewis & Clark Expedition (1804), Daniel Boone (1808), first homestead (1808), first church, (1818), a famous trail (1821), first publication or newspaper (1839), first railroad (1855), Civil War and founding of the "Kingdom of Callaway (1861). All county offices except the Sheriff and County Health services remain in the building. The new courthouse is a relatively late addition to the historic district, but it still plays a significant role in the administration of local government as well as the continued economic

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> History of Callaway County, p. 185.

<sup>21</sup> Ohman, "Callaway County."



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vitality and commercial use of the downtown.



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### Verbal Boundary Description

The solid dark line on the attached scale map of the district depicts the district boundaries.

### Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries were chosen to encircle the largest, contiguous portion of Fulton's historic central business district. To the North and West, the pattern of development and land use changes. The areas excluded from the boundaries on these two sides are primarily residential and do not share the historic commercial and governmental context of the chosen district. To the South and East of the district are commercial areas that have been dramatically impacted by modern remodeling and new construction. Though some intact historic buildings remain outside the chosen boundaries, they did not comprise a sufficient contiguous grouping to be included in the boundaries.

### Section 11: Nomination Prepared by:

Nancy Lewis  
Kingdom of Callaway Chamber of Commerce  
409 Court Street  
Fulton, MO 65250  
573-642-3055

and

Tiffany Patterson  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
573-751-7800



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### Photo Log

The following is true for all photographs:

Downtown Fulton Historic District  
Fulton, Callaway County, Missouri  
Photographer: Lee Elliott

Location of Negatives: Lee's Studio, 521 Court St., P.O. Box 405, Fulton, MO 65351  
Date: May 2004

1. 401-407 Court St., looking west.
2. 411 and 413 Court St., looking west.
3. 2 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St., looking southwest.
4. 501-505 Court St., looking west.
5. 505-513 Court St., looking west.
6. 511-517 Court St., looking west.
7. 521-523 Court St., looking west.
8. 525-529 Court St., looking west.
9. 529-527 Court St., looking west.
10. 537 Court St., looking south.
11. Fulton Cinema, 613 Court St., looking west.
12. 701 Market, looking northwest.
13. First Christian Church, 6 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St., looking south.
14. 610-600 Court St., looking east.
15. 600 Court St., looking northeast.
16. 534-530 Court St., looking northeast.
17. 532-538 Court St., looking east.
18. 526-518 Court St., looking east.
19. 518-510 Court St., looking east.
20. 518-508 Court St., looking northeast.
21. 7-13 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St., looking north.
22. Looking south on 5<sup>th</sup> St. between market and Court Streets.
23. 2 -18 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St., looking southeast.
24. 17-9 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St., looking north.
25. 17 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St., looking north.
26. 105 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St and 501 Nichols, looking northwest.
27. 117-109 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St., looking northwest.
28. 501-517 Nichols, looking southwest.
29. 523-527 Nichols, looking west.
30. 8012 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St., looking southeast.

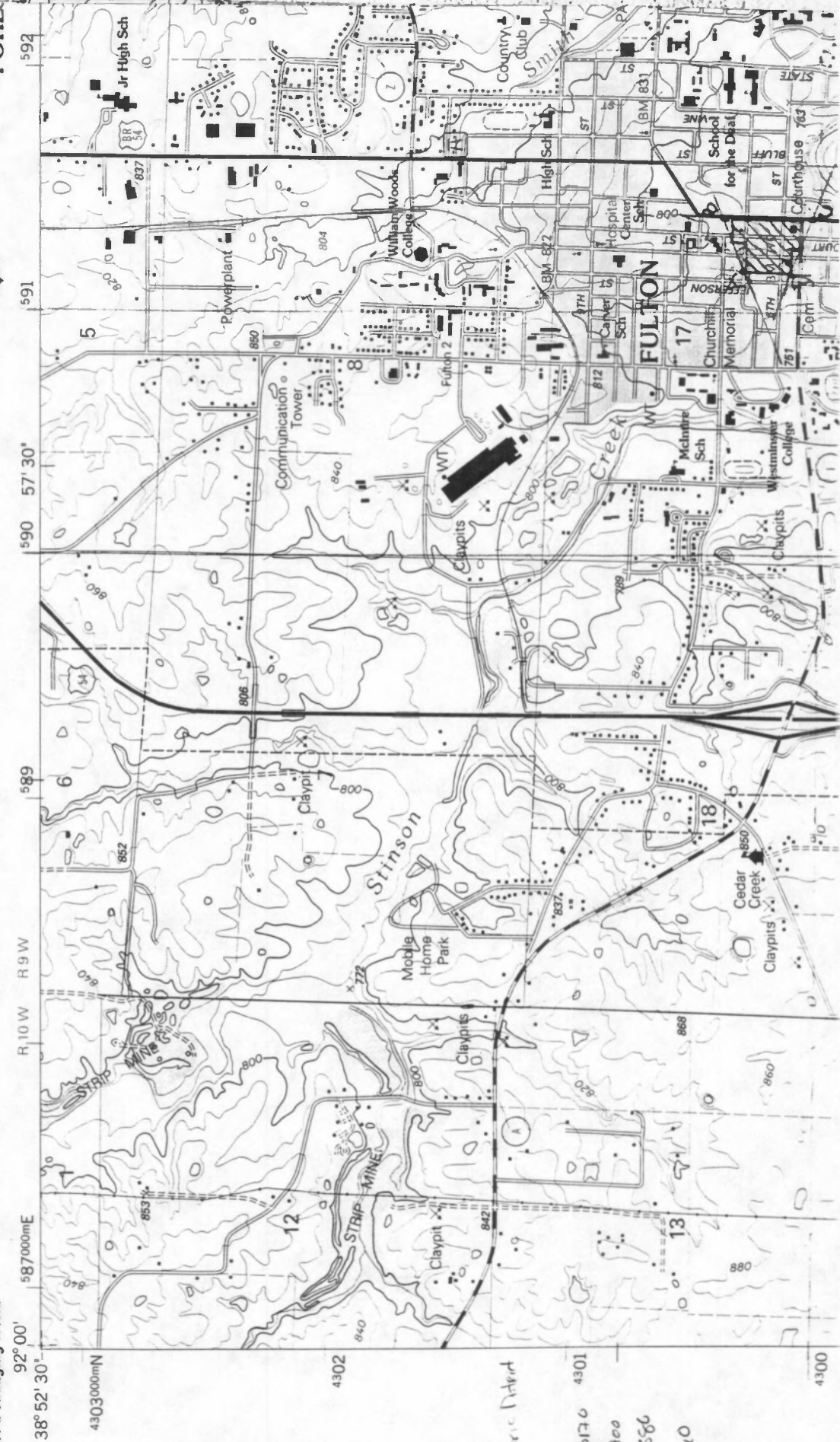




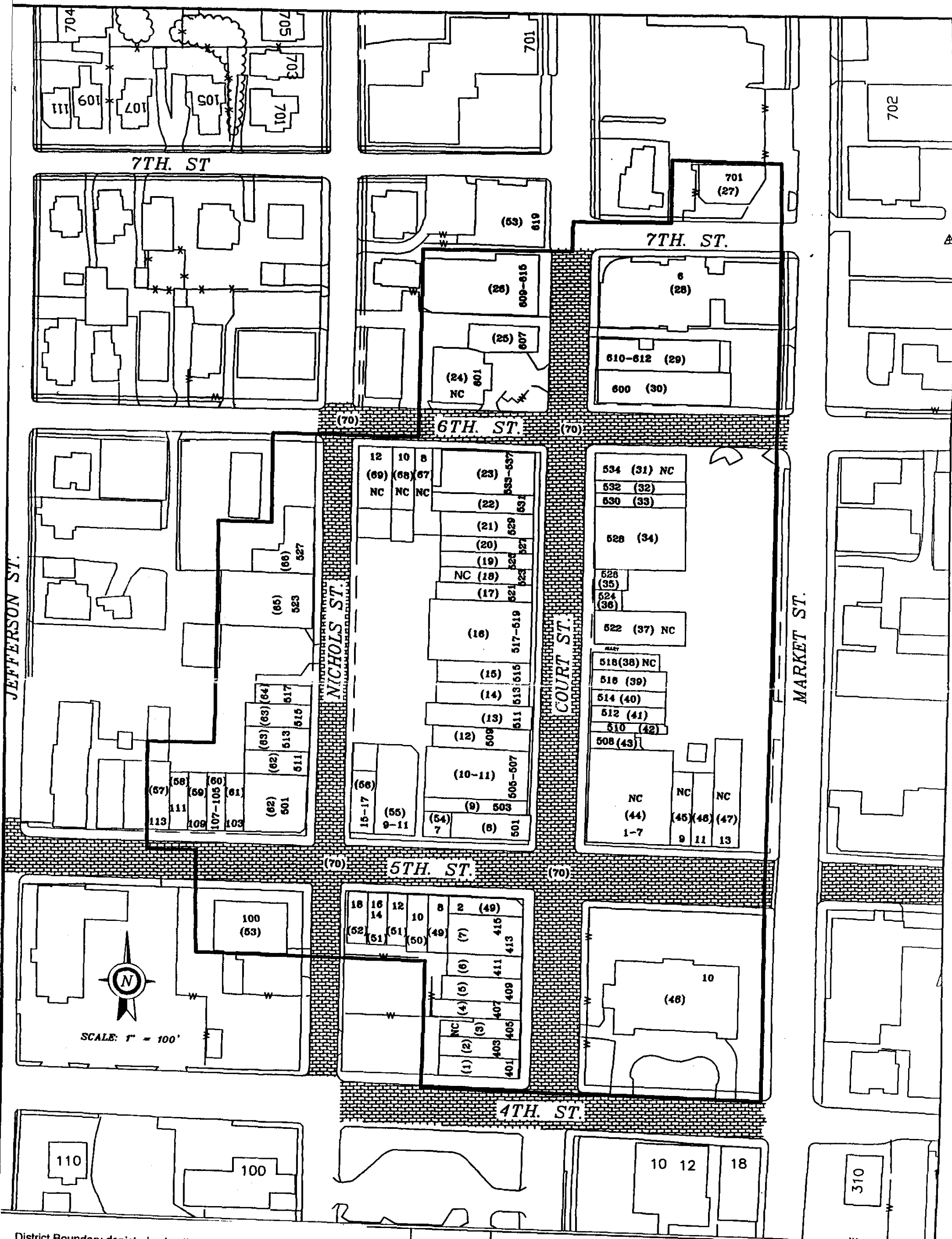
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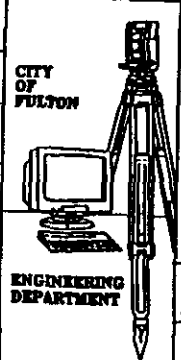






District Boundary depicted using the dark black line.  
 Numbers in parenthesis ( ) correspond with building descriptions in  
 Section 7 text.  
 Noncontributing properties are marked "NC."

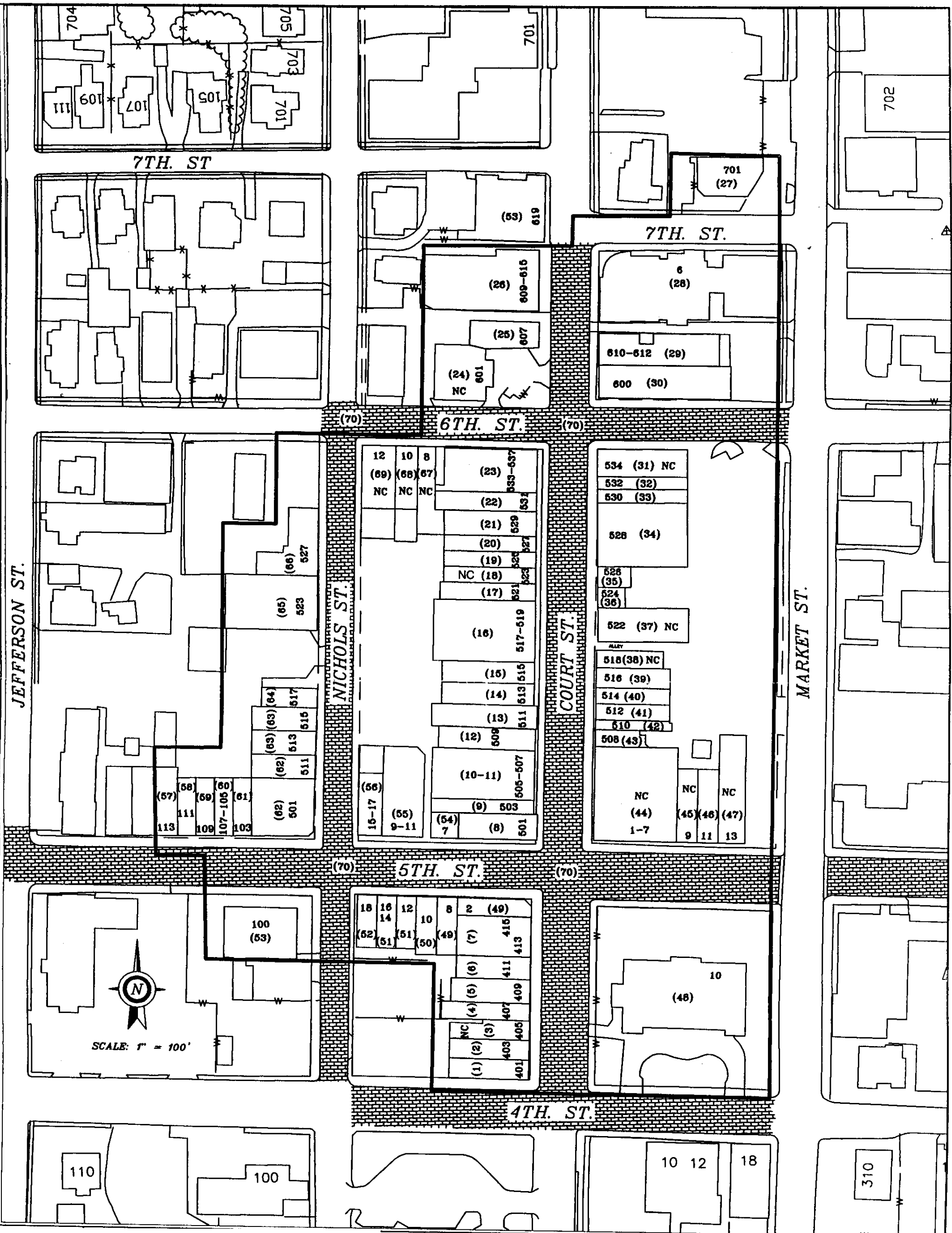
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**ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**  
 18 E. 4TH ST. FULTON, MO 65251



**Downtown Fulton Historic District**  
 Fulton, Callaway County, Missouri

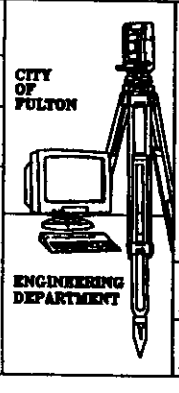
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• District Boundary depicted using the dark black line.  
• Numbers in parenthesis ( ) correspond with building descriptions in Section 7 text.  
• Noncontributing properties are marked "NC."

**CITY OF FULTON**  
**ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**  
18 E. 4TH ST. FULTON, MO 65251



**Downtown Fulton Historic District**  
Fulton, Callaway County, Missouri

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